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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year 1956



W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,
F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT
For the year 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1956.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight increase in the Birth Rate compared with the previous year.

The Death Rate remains the same as for 1955, and the Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded in this country.

Locally there is a slight decline in the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates in comparison with 1955.

Whooping Cough (49 cases), Measles (30), Pneumonia (28) and Scarlet Fever (15), were the chief Infectious Diseases notified.

The proposed sewerage schemes for Kelsall and Tarvin, both problems of the utmost urgency, still await Ministry sanction before proceeding.

Included as usual at the end of the Report is an extract from my Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the Cheshire County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Rural District of Tarvin forms part.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department throughout the year, and their great help to me in compiling this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Charles Moss (Chairman)
 „ G. W. Penk (Vice-Chairman)
 „ L. N. Jones
 „ T. B. Stevenson
 „ H. E. Mottershead
 „ F. Newport
 „ J. G. Harding
 „ Rev. E. H. Barnes
 „ H. G. Lloyd
 „ H. Lewis
 „ J. Vernon
 „ J. F. Windsor
 „ H. Dimelow

Ex-Officio :

Councillor R. N. Salmon (Chairman of the Council)
 „ F. Carr (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer :

G. T. Woods, F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate ; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health ; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection ; Certificate of the R.S.H. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works ; Examination of Institution of Public Health Engineers.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

G. P. Walpole, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate ; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health ; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

R. Mason, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate ; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health ; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Clerk : G. P. Davies (To December)
 A. Swain (from December)

Clerk/Typist : Miss Jean Rock

Rodent Operative : H. Williamson

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulance as an Agency Service.

(c) Nursing in the Home

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purpose of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas — Infant Welfare.

Hoole — Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopædic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester — Orthopædic and Tuberculosis.

(e) Hospitals

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz., Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 15.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.0 for 1955.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 11.7 per 1,000 population, the same rate as for 1955.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales i.e. Death of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births was 23.9, the lowest ever recorded; the rate for 1955 was 24.9.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Formation of District

The Tarvin Rural District was created in 1894 from parts of the Unions of Tarvin and Whitchurch. The Rural District of Malpas was created at the same time from the Union of Whitchurch. The area of the District was varied in 1936 by the Chester County Review Order, and major portions of Tarvin and Malpas R.D.'s were amalgamated to form the present Tarvin Rural District.

Area: 62,593 acres

Population, estimated by Registrar General, Mid-year, 1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14,730
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books....												4,586
Number of houses built (i.e. completed in 1956):												
Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
Council Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	36
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£119,871
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1956 (Estimated)....												£472

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

Births

LIVE BIRTHS							MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	92	108	200
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	3	8
							<hr/> 97	<hr/> 111	<hr/> 208
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population									14.12
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births....									1.07
Corrected Birth Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....			15.11
STILL BIRTHS							MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	3	6
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
							<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6
							<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births....									28.04
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population									0.41

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES

ENG. AND						ENG. AND					
TARVIN R.D. WALES						TARVIN R.D. WALES					
1936	....	....	....	13.2	14.8	1946	....	....	....	19.5	19.1
1937	....	....	....	15.7	14.9	1947	....	....	....	20.7	20.5
1938	....	....	....	14.9	15.1	1948	....	....	....	22.6	17.9
1939	....	....	....	15.7	15.0	1949	....	....	....	17.9	16.7
1940	....	....	....	15.0	14.6	1950	....	....	....	18.0	15.8
1941	....	....	....	15.8	14.2	1951	....	....	....	17.1	15.5
1942	....	....	....	17.6	15.8	1952	....	....	....	18.4	15.3
1943	....	....	....	18.5	16.5	1953	....	....	....	17.2	15.5
1944	....	....	....	17.7	17.6	1954	....	....	....	14.1	15.2
1945	....	....	....	15.9	16.1	1955	....	....	....	16.2	15.0
						1956	....	....	....	15.11	15.7

Deaths

MALE					FEMALE					TOTAL					
86					110					196					
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population															13.31
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths....															0.99
Corrected Death Rate															13.18

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

ENG. AND						ENG. AND					
TARVIN R.D. WALES						TARVIN R.D. WALES					
1936	....	....	....	13.3	12.1	1946	....	....	....	13.6	11.5
1937	....	....	....	10.9	12.4	1947	....	....	....	12.7	12.0
1938	....	....	....	11.5	11.6	1948	....	....	....	12.3	10.8
1939	....	....	....	13.7	12.1	1949	....	....	....	11.0	11.7
1940	....	....	....	14.1	14.3	1950	....	....	....	11.6	11.6
1941	....	....	....	10.7	12.9	1951	....	....	....	12.3	12.5
1942	....	....	....	10.1	11.6	1952	....	....	....	11.4	11.3
1943	....	....	....	11.3	12.1	1953	....	....	....	9.9	11.4
1944	....	....	....	12.6	11.6	1954	....	....	....	10.4	11.3
1945	....	....	....	12.9	11.4	1955	....	....	....	12.12	11.7
						1956	....	....	....	13.18	11.7

Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)										12

**TABLE OF POPULATION ESTIMATED BY R.G. AND
NATURAL INCREASE
(Excess of Births over Deaths)**

YEAR	ESTIMATED		YEAR	ESTIMATED	
	POP. R.G.	NATURAL INCREASE		POP. R.G.	NATURAL INCREASE
1936	14,053	2	1947	14,550	117
1937	14,160	50	1948	14,550	80
1938	14,150	52	1949	14,530	96
1939	16,010	22	1950	14,520	77
1940	15,030	13	1951	14,630	39
1941	—	80	1952	14,550	73
1942	—	112	1953	14,640	81
1943	—	104	1954	14,750	26
1944	14,110	71	1955	14,740	25
1945	14,010	57	1956	14,730	12
1946	14,480	85			

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 7

Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under 1
year per 1,000 live births 33.65

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES

ENG. AND			ENG. AND		
TARVIN R.D. WALES			TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	71.4	59	1947	59.6	41
1937	70.8	58	1948	46.3	34
1938	52.2	53	1949	23.1	32
1939	63.1	50	1950	26.7	29.8
1940	53.6	55	1951	33.6	29.6
1941	51.2	59	1952	35.3	27.6
1942	26.5	49	1953	16.7	26.8
1943	30.0	49	1954	15.5	25.5
1944	40.0	46	1955	40.4	24.9
1945	58.8	46	1956	33.65	23.8
1946	56.5	43			

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Cancer of lung	3	1
Cancer of all other sites....	6	16
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	14	28
Heart disease	34	33
Other diseases of circulatory system....	6	2
Influenza	1	4
Bronchitis	4	7
Pneumonia	1	—
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Nephritis	2	1
Prostate	1	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Road traffic accidents	1	—
Other violent	2	1
All other causes	10	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all causes	86	110
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 26 ; in the previous year there were 38.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 67 compared with 69 in 1955.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 42 : there were 29 in 1955.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1956

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	28	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	30	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Polio myelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	49	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	124	—	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	....	....	....	....	....	....	25	1945	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
1937	....	....	....	....	....	....	10	1946	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
1938	....	....	....	....	....	....	35	1947	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
1939	....	....	....	....	....	....	15	1948	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1940	....	....	....	....	....	....	27	1949	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1941	....	....	....	....	....	....	17	1950	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1942	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	1951	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1943	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	1952	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1944	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	1953/4/5/6	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1956

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-44	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	—	1	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated during the year. The provision of a home help and benevolent supervision by the public health inspector and health visitor have proved sufficient to remedy undesirable conditions and permit the patient to remain in his or her own home with its familiar associations.

CANCER RESEARCH

The Council are co-operating with other authorities in the Liverpool Region in further statistical research sponsored by the B.E.C.C.

Brucellosis

In my report of last year I included brief details of action taken following reports of a positive result of the Ring Test on raw milk bottled at farms in this District.

Sampling and tests were continued during 1956 as cows which were dry came into milk. One of these cows whose milk showed a positive Ring Test followed by positive culture was removed from the herd.

Staphylococcal Infection

A Report that a raw milk bottled on a farm in this District contained Staphylococci pyogenes was investigated during the year.

Individual milk samples from the herd resulted in Staphylococci being isolated in the milk from seven cows. These cattle were treated with streptomycine and resampled. Six cows were cleared and the cow still giving suspected milk was removed from the herd for further treatment.

The five milk handlers were also swabbed as a precaution, and two men returned positive throat swabs. One man left the District and the other was excluded from the shippens and dairy while treatment by his family doctor was given until three consecutive negative swabs were reported.

During the period that the investigation was carried out, the whole of the milk from the farm was pasteurised as a precautionary measure.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. T. Pritchard, Engineer and Surveyor, has supplied me with the following information on water mains and new sewers.

(1) Water

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District.

PARISHES	SUPPLY
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Duddon and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board (Eddisbury Borehole).
3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoofield.	do.
4. Bickley.	Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aque-duct per Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board's Mains.
5. Broxton.	do.
6. Burwardsley.	do.

7.	Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
8.	Tattenhall, Huxley and part of Newton - by - Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton.	do.
9.	Hampton, part of Edge and Macefen.	do.
10.	Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton, part of Wychough, part of Agden, part of Old-castle and part of Overton.	do.
11.	Tushingham (part).	do.
12.	Threapwood.	do.
13.	Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford and Edgerly.	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Co.
14.	Part of Chorlton.	Private Estate Supply, borehole and small reservoir, Chorlton Hall.
15.	Part of Edge.	Private Estate supply to Edge Hall.
16.	Willington.	Willington Estate.
17.	Aldersey and Coddington.	Aldersey Estate.
18.	Barton, Stretton, Carden and part of Clutton.	Carden Estate.
19.	Harthill.	Bolesworth Estate bulk supply from Tarvin R.D.C.'s mains.
20.	Waverton.	Chester Waterworks Co.
21.	Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots.	Eaton Estate, Chester Waterworks Co.
22.	Shocklach (part).	Tarvin R.D.C. borehole and elevated tank.
23.	Tilston village.	Tarvin R.D. Mains.

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by the Council's mains at December, 1956, are as follows:—

DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL
2,477	842	3,319

Water Main Schemes Approved
 Crewe-by-Farndon.

Water Schemes completed during the year ending December, 1956

	LIN. YARDS					
Tushingam Bridge (Section 1)4"	....	....	1,270
Tilstone Fearnall3"	....	....	1,183
Bruen Stapleford3"	....	....	317
Ford Lane, Tattenhall2"	....	....	650
Tilston (Lowcross—Hobb Hill)3"	....	....	1,480
Cuddington Heath	30
Total						<hr/> 4,930 <hr/>

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works in Progress
 Waverton.

Schemes in Preparation

Kelsall and Tarvin Village schemes are awaiting Ministry approval.

REPORT

of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the Year ending December, 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In presenting this report of another busy year, I must first record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Council in making further progress in environmental sanitation generally.

New legislation which came into operation affecting duties of the Department included the Food and Drugs Act, the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, the Clean Air Act and several new Regulations.

Meat inspection, food premises, housing repairs and improvements, new drainage, sewage treatment works and rodent control have constituted a great part of the activities of the Department.

Inspection of all meat slaughtered in the District for human consumption has been maintained. The total kill showed an increase over the number of animals slaughtered last year particularly in beasts.

The re-survey of substandard houses for the purpose of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme was completed. Details of the results are shown in the following pages.

Rural Districts in England and Wales were responsible for more than half of the total of improvement grants made by all authorities in 1955, and this record of activity in improving older property was continued in the Tarvin Rural District during 1956.

The long standing problem of sewage disposal at Tarvin and Kelsall villages is still with us. While financial pressure makes it necessary to hasten slowly it must be remembered that new building development and improvements to older property at Tarvin is stopped completely. At Kelsall the temporary short term arrangements made for drainage of new buildings over the last ten years pending a public sewer is already giving rise to trouble. Conditions at these villages are deteriorating rapidly and the urgency for sewerage facilities increases in proportion.

Dr. Birchall and the staff of the Department have given me their active support throughout the year. This has made possible a report of still further progress.

Your obedient Servant,

G. T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

WATER

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results, reports were made to your Works and Planning Committee for consideration for mains extensions where suitable.

A total of 93 water samples were taken during the year, made up of 62 samples taken from local supplies and 31 from the mains.

These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and suitable action taken on unsatisfactory reports. The extension of mains continued during 1956, and this enabled several doubtful local supplies to be superseded.

HOUSING

Repairs

The steady improvement in housing conditions in the District was continued during the year, and a great deal of repair work has been carried out on request without the necessity of any statutory action.

Clearance of Unfit Houses

For the purpose of the slum clearance programme and as required by the 1954 Act the survey of substandard houses was continued.

During the earlier Rural Housing Survey completed in 1947 all houses in the District under a rateable value of £20 were inspected and classified as follows:—

Class "A"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,107
Class "B"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,246
Class "C"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	598
Class "D"	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	280

A report on the re-survey of "D" houses was made to the Council in August, 1955, to enable an estimate of a programme for slum clearance to be submitted to the Minister. The re-survey of the "C" class houses followed and was carried out as other duties permitted. This re-inspection was completed by the end of the year and an analysis of the results shows the following conditions:—

Class "C" Dwellings

In addition to the original total of 598 in 1947 a further 34 dwellings in this class have been brought to light to give a figure of 632. During the past ten years since the original survey, 68 of these have been reconstructed to Grade "A" standard; 308

have had works carried out by the owners or tenants to make them Grade "B"; 223 remain as "C"; and 6 have deteriorated to "D."

The balance of 27 have been either (i) absorbed with adjoining dwellings in reconstruction (ii) demolished; or (iii) closed for habitation.

The "C" dwellings are all substandard, but in contrast to the "D"s they are not in such a state as to prevent repair and reconstruction to a fit standard if the owners were prepared to face the expense, despite low rents. There is a very noticeable increase in the number of tenants who visit the office for information who are considering buying such "C" cottages and carrying out works for better weatherproofing, lighting and ventilation, dampproofing, water supply, drainage, etc., to make fit their own dwellings in preference to applying for a council house with increasing rentals.

It is my considered opinion that in a few years a survey of these "C" dwellings will show a much reduced total as ownerships change and increasing works of repair and reconstruction are carried out. There is constant daily supervision of repairs and improved amenities by the Department throughout the District, the sum total of which will have a marked effect as time passes.

In this connection, when the Council decide to proceed with further building for slum clearance or general needs, I strongly recommend that the highest priority be given to bungalows.

A summary of the re-survey of class "C" houses revealed the following position as compared with the previous survey:—

1947 Survey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	598
Additions since 1947	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
Total "C" houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	632
1957 Re-survey									
Demolished	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Demolition Order operative	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Undertaking not to be used for human habitation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Absorbed in reconstruction of adjoining dwelling	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Re-classified to "A" standard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	68
Re-classified to "B" standard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	308
Re-classified to "C" standard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	223
Re-classified to "D" standard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6

This analysis of the position reflects the amount of repairs and improvement works obtained by the Department during the

difficult post war years with their material shortages, recurrent financial crises and rising costs. There have been comparatively few instances where statutory action by the Council has been called for to enforce requirements, and most of the works have been brought about by informal action.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received during the year.

Overcrowding

While an accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded in the District cannot be given without a full survey, it is known from 231 housing applications investigated by the Department in 1956, that the overcrowding of 39 families comprising 159 persons was relieved by the provision of a council house.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

The Ministry of Health now require quarterly returns relating to the repair, demolition and closing of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts and consequently the usual detailed annual return previously included in this Report has been abbreviated in the following table:—

Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	43
Number of houses rendered fit after statutory action	3
Number of Demolition Orders made	7
Number of Closing Orders made	10
Number on which Undertakings were can- celled after being made fit	3
Number on which Demolition or Closing Orders were cancelled after being made fit	2

Council House Tenancies

The records of housing applications and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department, who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant, after investigations by a visit to the house by one of your Public Health Inspectors.

At the close of the year the Register of Applications totalled 174.

Thirty-four new council houses were occupied during the year, of which five were tenants employed in agriculture. A large number of the new tenants comprised young married people with children or couples in rooms who desired a family. Thirty-nine

cases of overcrowding were relieved by rehousing families in new council houses and casual vacancies in existing houses.

Total number of council houses tenanted at
31st December, 1956 663

Total number of above with tenants in agri-
culture 200

POST WAR HOUSING

	1946/55	1956	TOTAL
Ashton	22	2	24
Beeston	10	—	10
Nomansheath, Bickley	8	—	8
Broxton	4	—	4
Clutton	10	4	14
Coddington	4	—	4
Duddon	21	6	27
Edge	8	—	8
Farndon	56	4	60
Gatesheath	8	—	8
Huxley	4	—	4
Kelsall	44	—	44
Malpas	86	8	94
Oscroft	8	—	8
Shocklach	4	—	4
Tarvin	32	—	32
Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	8	—	8
Tattenhall	64	2	66
Tilston	26	8	34
Tiverton	12	—	12
Waverton	4	—	4
	<hr/> 443	<hr/> 34	<hr/> 477

Housing of Old People

The Council have made special provision for the housing of elderly couples or single persons by the provision of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (20 bungalows), Tattenhall (8 bungalows), Beeston (2 bungalows), Tilston (4 bungalows) and Ashton (2 bungalows).

In any new building programme the provision of bungalows should have the highest priority for the purposes of slum clearance, as many of the unfit cottages awaiting action are occupied by elderly persons who would under-occupy a family house.

There is other accommodation provided for old people in the District at the Maria Taylor Almshouses, Malpas, which are scheduled for improvement, and the Cholmondeley Almshouses,

Malpas, which have already been improved under the provisions of grant aid. The original six cottages here which lacked amenities have been converted to four dwellings with modern facilities.

Licensing of Condemned Houses

Section 6 of the 1954 Act permits the licensing of condemned houses for occupation as a temporary measure.

The two condemned dwellings licensed for temporary occupation were vacated during 1956 and have not been re-licensed. The Council substituted Closing Orders on the premises for the Demolition Orders previously made, to enable the owners to absorb them when improving the adjoining dwellings.

Housing Acts, 1949/54—Improvement Grants

Improvement grants play their part in providing modern amenities to older dwellings and in obtaining full scale repairs to a high standard.

Five applications still under consideration at the end of 1955 for improvements costing an estimated £1,065, were approved in 1956 for grants, to a total of £438.

In addition to the above, a further forty-three applications were received during the year, and grants to a value of £3,456 were approved for twelve applicants in respect of improvements costing £6,590, plus an estimated £1,526 for repairs. Five applications involved the maximum grant of £400.

The total of grants approved during 1956 was therefore £3,894 for improvements estimated to cost £7,655. Rents varying from 15/- to 25/- per week were fixed by the Council.

Three applications for grant were refused on the grounds that they were business premises.

In another case the improvement works were found to have been carried out before application for grant aid was made, and could not therefore be considered.

Ten owners did not proceed with their applications after they had received details of the standard of repairs required in order to qualify for grant.

At the end of the year applications for grant in respect of twenty premises were under consideration and on which further particulars were required.

DRAINAGE

Numerous schemes have been prepared by the Department for isolated dwellings and in addition many connections to village sewers have been arranged.

Wherever possible a system of drainage in combination is advocated to save unnecessary expense and as a further encouragement to connect, the necessary drainage plans are prepared for the owner by your inspectors.

New building is hindered at Kelsall and completely held up at Tarvin owing to the difficulties of disposal of drainage. There is constantly recurring trouble from sewage sick land permitting drainage to escape to run into the roadway. On wash-days the road drains carry a heavy volume of sullage to their outfall. Conditions are rapidly deteriorating.

Only the provision of main sewers at these villages will solve this problem, and encourage development in the village area and at the same time clear existing pollution. The Tarvin and Kelsall schemes are dependent on a decision from the Ministry.

During the year 146 drainage schemes were deposited and approved. These involved several visits to the site by your inspectors to check levels, supervise the work and test the installations on completion.

New dwelling houses erected during the year by private enterprise have all been supplied with water closets.

There have been a number of conversions of pails to water closets and several privy middens abolished.

All council houses built during the year had water closets installed.

Rivers and Streams

The Tarvin Rural District is in the area of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and co-operation is maintained between your public health officers and the Board's officials.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A long period of frost and snow in February, 1956, coupled with absence through sickness of most of the men, dislocated the normal collection schedules to an unprecedented extent. At one time there were half the men absent sick, and waggons had to be left in the garage for lack of drivers and loaders.

The severe weather conditions caused wet refuse to freeze solidly in the bins, creating a very trying time for those men who were left on duty.

As was to be expected there followed a spate of complaints of non-collection of refuse. This could be an appreciation of a service expressed only when it stops.

During the year your Public Health Committee again considered requests from residents in outlying areas to extend the refuse collection service to give a more frequent collection to the country districts. Under a previous decision of the Council these country areas were serviced only after the main villages and built up areas had been cleared, in order to avoid increasing costs.

With no increase in the personnel and vehicles in ten years, it is only to be expected that the resources are continually under strain in view of extensive new building during this period, so that when there is a breakdown in a waggon or men are off sick, some country areas may be visited only once a month to clear tins, bottles and other incombustible refuse.

The requests for more frequent collection seem to emanate mainly from new residents who have purchased or rented isolated rural dwellings to get away from the town, but at the same time wish for town amenities, despite the difference between the financial resources of a town and rural local authority.

The Committee decided not to extend the service in view of the consequent heavy extra burden on the general rate, and confirmed their previous decision that the regular collections should be restricted to the built up areas where the residents had little or no facilities for burning paper or cardboard and disposing of their refuse other than in a dustbin.

In a further effort to get the co-operation of residents, printed slips were distributed by the drivers on their rounds which began with the caption "Read this, it affects your rates." It asked residents to burn all refuse possible and explained the financial implications.

The immediate result was good, but the effect as time passed not so marked.

Disposal

Disposal is by controlled tipping and much land has already been reclaimed for agricultural use.

The larger tips in use are situated at Waverton, Iddinshall, Barton, Malpas and Bickley. The Barton quarry is now approaching completion, which will bring back into use this disused area for grazing. There are smaller tips at Burwardsley, Mouldsworth and Tiverton. Negotiations are proceeding for the use of a quarry at Churton.

Salvage

A restricted salvage collection is made in conjunction with the refuse service. Income from salvage was received in respect of the following:—

	1956/57	PREV. YEAR
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper	242 15 0	192 8 3
Scrap Metal	18 0 0	43 15 2
Bones	— — —	6 0
Rags and Sacking....	20 17 4	— — —
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£281 12 4	£236 9 5
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The nett cost of the Refuse and Salvage Collection Service for the year ending 31st March, 1957, was £6,171.

Camping Sites

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year, in relation to sites or individual moveable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for permanent residence.

There is one site for five caravans approved under planning control.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The year has been a very busy one for the Departments' officers with housing repairs, and a great deal has been done in the District by the officials of the Department in relation to improvements in sanitation.

Informal requests and persuasion are used as far as possible before cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains the low number of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors' activities during 1956 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report:—

Informal Notices served re	housing defects	....	....	....	....	139
do.	unsatisfactory water supply	....	....	....	....	6
do.	defective drainage	....	....	....	....	40
do.	dirty conditions	....	....	....	....	4
do.	provision of dustbins	....	....	....	....	2
do.	insanitary closets	....	....	....	....	4
do.	foul ditches	....	....	....	....	10
do.	leaking gutters and downspouts	....	....	....	....	8
do.	offensive accumulations	....	....	....	....	24
do.	Food and Drugs Act, 1938	....	....	....	....	18
do.	rat infestations	....	....	....	....	25
do.	defects in factories	....	....	....	....	8
do.	petroleum spirit stores	....	....	....	....	1
do.	food premises	....	....	....	....	30
No. of written complaints received at the office	....	....	....	....	....	251

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the inspectors during their District work or by visits or by telephone to the inspectors' private houses.

Shops

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed. No statutory action was necessary during 1956.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Sixty-seven factories are on the register. These include 12 non-power and 55 power. Following inspection a notice to remedy defects was served on eight occupiers. These were complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

Factories Act, 1938 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

	Premises	Number on Register	Number of inspections	Formal Notices served
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	12	21	—
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	31	—
	Totals	67	52	—

Outworkers

There were no outworkers on the register during 1956.

Smoke Abatement

Observations on various commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time. Informal action was taken in respect of one factory on several occasions, where defective firing of the boiler caused complaint. A new boiler has now been installed.

ERADICATION OF INSECT VERMIN

Two premises were treated against fleas during the year.

A number of complaints were received regarding flies. Advice regarding treatment and D.D.T. solution were supplied to householders and appropriate action taken at the source where defined.

No infestations of bedbugs were reported.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Council are the statutory body with responsibilities and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on all properties; agricultural as well as non-agricultural under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The service is kept as self-supporting as possible. The very nature of the service however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation, the less is the demand for renewed contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The Council's several tips, sewers, sewerage works and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfested as found necessary.

The first bi-annual 10% test baiting of the Council's sewers during the year showed a positive result on two systems. These were treated and re-tested after six months when negative takes were recorded.

Knackers Yard

The licence in respect of a Knackers Yard at Malpas was renewed provisionally each quarter during the year. The proprietors were made aware that the periodic renewal depended on satisfactory progress being made with the reconstruction and improvement of the works.

Informal action requiring improvements in conditions had been met only partially and after a full report had been considered by the Public Health Committee, they decided to warn the proprietors that the license would not be renewed unless some positive action was put in hand to improve the structure and facilities.

I am pleased to record that by the close of the year a striking improvement was apparent. Timber structures have been demolished and replaced by brick buildings with modern lighting and ventilation. Old earth, brick and broken cement floors have been concreted and generally the whole place brought up to modern standards. New drains have been installed.

Precautions have been taken against avoidable nuisance from the various processes of an offensive trade, and the management have gone to considerable expense to comply with the Council's requirements and even to exceed these.

Slaughter of Horses

The improvements to the Knackers Yard included special provisions to comply with the slaughter of Animals Acts in regard to the slaughter of horses and the necessity for excluding from sight other carcases or offal, etc.

The premises are therefore now licensed for the slaughter of horses.

Schools

The need for improvements to the sanitary accommodation at certain schools has been raised with the Education Authority.

Tushingham School now has mains water supply and I am informed that improvements to the sanitary arrangements at several schools are in hand.

School Canteens are subject to the new Regulations and arrangements for combined inspection by the various Departments involved will be carried out in the near future.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Seventy-two premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

This work is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in preparing food for sale to the public.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling, preparation or the sale of food include:—

Ice Cream retailers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
Cafes (no cooked meals)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Restaurants (cooked meals)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Licensed premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
Abattoirs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Butchers' Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Bakeries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Other miscellaneous (Grocers, Confectioners, etc.)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4

Verbal cautions were given in cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. No statutory action was necessary however.

Milk

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1955, the Tarvin Rural District is a specified area, making compulsory the use of special designations for all retail sales of milk.

Milk obtained by farmworkers from their employers is exempted.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors and Dairies are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Dairies (not Dairy Farms)	....	....	....	....	....	3
No. of Registered Milk Distributors	....	....	....	....	....	16
No. of Dealers' Licences issued	....	....	....	....	....	6
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	....	....	....	....	....	7

Regulation 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The Medical Officer of Health has commented on infected milk on page 11.

Ice-Cream

Forty-five premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Public Health Officers for analysis at the laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

No. of samples analysed	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Disease of Animals Acts

Notifications of suspected Anthrax during 1956	....	....	....	....	....	79
Notifications confirmed as Anthrax	....	....	....	....	....	5

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Meat inspection is a problem for most local authorities, with the necessity for examination at all sorts of hours to suit the trade. No addition to the inspectorate has so far been made, but there has been regular out of hours inspection in order to maintain the 100% examination of all carcasses slaughtered for human consumption in the District.

Routine inspection is carried out in conformity with the Ministry Memorandum on Meat Inspection.

This has no legal backing and a heavy responsibility rests on the inspector to see that the owner of the meat is not penalized by unnecessary loss, and on the other hand that the public are not exposed to the risk of consumption of infected meat. Your inspectors are well qualified and experienced and the slaughtermen usually accept their judgments. There was no instance where it became necessary to use powers to seize unsound meat.

During the year two Pig Deadweight Certification Centres at Huxley and Hampton were approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Your inspectors act as Certifying Officers for this scheme at Huxley and the certifying fees are paid to the Council by the Ministry. Cows are also sent for slaughter and examination under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950. The Ministry's activity to eradicate this bovine disease is reflected in the number of reactors sent for slaughter at the Huxley abattoir. These totalled 367 in 1956.

Meat Inspection

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health:—

YEAR 1956		BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTAL
Numbers killed	....	1,002	1,639	514	3,161	2,913	9,229
Numbers inspected	....	1,002	1,639	514	3,161	2,913	9,229

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses							
condemned		7	130	46	16	69	268
Part carcasses							
condemned		302	840	5	396	579	2,122
Percentage affected	....	30.83	59.12	9.9	13.03	22.27	25.89

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses							
condemned		3	35	1	—	4	43
Part carcasses							
condemned		98	495	10	—	57	660
Percentage affected	....	10.08	32.3	2.13	—	2.09	7.62

Cysticercosis

Part carcasses							
condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—
Refrigeration treatment		4	—	—	—	—	4
Whole carcasses							
condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—

Reasons for Condemnation of Whole Carcasses

Pathological emaciation	....	55	Multiple abscesses	....	....	2
General oedema	....	52	Gangrenous pneumonia	....	....	7
Acute febrility	....	24	Moribund	....	....	22
Septicaemia	....	15	Septic peritonitis	....	....	9
Septic metritis	....	5	Acute fever	....	....	13
General bruising	....	8	Icteric	....	....	2
General tuberculosis	....	43	Umbilical pyaemia	....	....	5
Hydraemia	....	9	Acute erysipelas	....	....	4
Immaturity	....	13	Pyaemia	....	....	2
Septic pericarditis	....	5	Other diseases	....	....	16

During the year a total of 367 animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

Localised tuberculosis was found in 333 of these and no tubercular lesions were visible on post mortem examination in 34.

Sixteen cows in addition were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

If this total of 383 cows sent for slaughter by reason of suspected tuberculosis is separated from the normal kill, the number of cows affected with tuberculosis is reduced to 147 out of 1,256, a percentage of 11.7.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 50 tons 3 cwt. 2 qr.

Disposal of Condemned Meat

Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

Dealers object to having condemned meat coloured, as prejudicing the sale for animal feeding. In my opinion there is a very definite need for legislation to enforce staining of condemned meat at the slaughterhouses, and treatment by licensed dealers before re-sale as dog meat to the public.

The requirements to colour condemned meat enforceable under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, is no longer in force.

Inspection of other Foods

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 11 cwt. 20 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis

Four cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year.

Details were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48.

The carcases were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Food Adulteration

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights & Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending 31st December, 1956:—

NATURE OF SAMPLE	NUMBER OBTAINED	NUMBER ADULTERATED OR NOT UP TO THE RECOGNISED STANDARD OF QUALITY
Butter	1	—
Cheese (Cheshire)	1	—
Coffee (ground)	1	—
Corned Beef	1	—
Currie Powder	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Jam (Raspberry)	1	—
Jellies (table)	1	—
Lard	1	—
Malt Extract with Cod Liver Oil	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Milk (Condensed Special Full Cream)	1	—
Milk	21	1
Orange Squash	1	—
Shredded Beef Suet	1	1
Whisky	4	1
	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 3

Particulars of samples not up to standard

No. 1 Sample: Milk

Result of Analysis:

Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids not fat
to the extent of 2.3 per cent.

Remarks:

Retail sale. No action.

No. 2 Sample: Shredded Beef Suet

Result of Analysis:

1.5 per cent deficient in fat.

Remarks:

Manufacturers cautioned.

No. 3 Sample: Whisky

Result of Analysis:

5.3 per cent extraneous water.

Remarks:

Fine £10 and £1 15s. 0d. costs.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36

Petroleum Stores

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade, who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1956	96
Number of new stores inspected and licensed	9
Number of transfers of licenses	3
Total number of licensed stores on the register at December, 1956	105

National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50 (Burial of the Dead)

No action was called for during 1956 under the above Section of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

Local Legislation

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted 12th August, 1890).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 (adopted 5th April, 1938).

Building Bye-laws (adopted 21st November, 1953).

The adoptive sections of the Cheshire County Council Act, 1953, are under consideration.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1956

Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Divisional Medical Officer)

*16, White Friars,
Chester.*

Telephone : Chester 20071 (2 lines).

ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1955) is 77,560, and the area is 115,414 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.67 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 22,461, and the combined rateable value for 1956 is £555,496.

The work of the Ambulance Service continues to expand. In February, 1956, the new Depot was occupied; and at the beginning of March, with the appointment of additional staff, a full 24 hour, 7 day per week service was in operation for the first time. It was not until October that the Depot was officially opened by Viscount Leverhulme.

In other directions also there has been expansion. 1956 saw the introduction of Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. This additional preventive measure, in conjunction with B.C.G. Vaccination and the existing Vaccination sessions against Smallpox, together with the considerable Immunisation scheme against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough has strained the resources of the Health Visitors and Clerical Staffs to the utmost.

There is an urgent need for additional Health Visitors, especially in the rapidly expanding Borough of Ellesmere Port.

The Clerical Staff, with greatly increased work to cope with, has unfortunately suffered from frequent changes of staff, and some prolonged periods of sickness, which have thrown additional strain on the existing members.

The Domestic Help Service has also shown increased activity during the past year.

I would take this opportunity of reminding the Committee of the valuable services regularly performed by Voluntary Helpers at various clinic sessions throughout the district and in connection with the distribution of Welfare Foods.

Infectious Diseases again showed a pronounced incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough over other notifiable diseases.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH - WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1956

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Sec. 22)—Care of Mothers and Young Children

A. Mothers' Clinics:		NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ante-Natal		458	3081
Post-Natal		159	167
Dental			
Pre-Natal		2	2
Nursing Mothers		2	2
Dentures supplied		—	—
B. Young Children's Clinics:		NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
(1) Infant Welfare—			
To 1 year		893	9003
1—2 years		—	1753
2—5 years		—	1499
(2) Specialist—			
Ophthalmic		24	71
Dental Treatment (under 5)		122	124
E.N.T. (under 5)		31	38
(3) Day Nurseries—		DAILY AVERAGE NO.	
		ATTEND- ING	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Aged 0—2 years		8	1818
2—5 years		33	8150

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

Eye Clinics—		NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Hoole		5	5
Ellesmere Port		19	66
Totals		24	71
Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed			12
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment			5

Welfare Centres—	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES		
	0-1	0-1	1-2	2-5
Barrow	19	244	114	68
Ellesmere Port	325	3057	255	196
Farndon	15	84	36	69
Huntington	41	231	57	119
Ince	22	203	32	44
Kelsall	25	285	175	147
Little Sutton	159	2065	350	255
Malpas	11	90	41	35
Overpool	84	716	77	18
Saughall	45	382	169	154
Tarvin	28	313	139	94
Tattenhall	26	226	55	83
Upton	93	1107	253	217
	893	9003	1753	1499

SPECIAL COMMENTS

WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERY

Welfare Centres

The Little Sutton Welfare Centre was decorated internally and externally at a cost of £204.

Three cubicles were provided in the Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre for use at Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Rental for the hire of the Memorial Hall at Farndon and the Vernon Institute at Saughall was increased from the 1st April, 1956.

Welfare Foods (Ministry)

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued satisfactorily largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S., who have been most helpful.

A new distribution point was opened at the beginning of the year at Ashton. The distribution points at Beeston and Broxton closed during the year.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:—

N.D.M.	C.L.O.	A/D TABLETS	O.J.
31,808	6,696	2,367	75,473

The above figures compare very favourably with the figures for the previous year.

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port

Attendances during the March quarter were very low, an average of only 29. The Nursery was in quarantine for the whole quarter owing to outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Measles. In addition there were numerous absentees owing to respiratory infections—heavy feverish colds, bronchitis, etc. During May and June attendances greatly improved, the daily average being between 45—55. This high average was maintained throughout the September quarter. Attendances however dropped a little during the latter part of November. Absences were again due to respiratory infections, colds, etc.

At the close of the year there were 58 children on the register, of whom 29 were priority cases. There were 87 non-priority cases on the waiting list.

The Matron reported that she had great difficulty in keeping the Day Nursery warm, and was unable to keep the blankets adequately aired. On the recommendation of a Sub-Committee 2 Electric Convector Heaters were purchased, and 2 Electric Power points were installed. The Matron reports that the additional heating has proved quite successful.

The Nursery was closed for the Annual Holidays from the 6th to the 18th of August.

The Matron and the Staff arranged a Christmas Party for the children. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. H. Backhouse, attended as Father Christmas and gave each child a present.

The Committee recommended to the County Health Committee that the charge for non-priority cases should be increased from 4/6d. to 6/- per day.

STAFF—

There have been several changes in staff during the year, including the Deputy Matron. The Committee made the necessary appointment in each case.

COSTS—

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1956, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1954-55: 9/10d.	1955-56: 12/9d.
-----------------	-----------------

Average cost throughout the County was:—

1954-55: 11/11½d.	1955-56: 11/11½d.
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MIDWIVES

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers)—1,613 (including 28 stillbirths).

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Transport

The Aldford District Nurse's car was replaced by a new Ford Popular. The old car was sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation Ltd. for £160/11/6.

Reconditioned engines were fitted to the Malpas District Nurse's and the Little Sutton District Midwife's cars.

Several of the other County owned cars used by the District Nurse/Midwives were repaired during the year.

Accommodation

The Mouldsworth District Nurse's house was externally painted at a cost of £32/15/6.

A new Electric Stove was purchased for the Farndon District Nurse at a cost of £17/5/1.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155/0/0 was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1957, for Convalescent treatment.

There were no cases for Convalescent treatment during the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The Ministry of Health announced in February a scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis of children born between January, 1947, and December, 1954.

Wide publicity was given to the scheme both in the National Press and the local newspapers giving details of the scheme and advising parents how to register their children for the vaccination. In addition, posters were displayed in Clinics, Day Nurseries, Local Government Offices and Post Offices. Consent forms were issued to school children by the Headmasters and forms for children under school age were distributed at Clinics and by personal visits by Health Visitors, and at Local Government Offices.

3,495 children were registered for the vaccination, approximately 39.2 per cent. of the children eligible.

By the end of June 238 children had received a full course of two injections, and 204 children had received one injection.

During December 152 children received their second injection and a further 31 children received a first injection.

The Vaccinations were carried out at the following Centres:—

Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Upton, Hoole, Divisional Office, Chester, Huntington, Kelsall, Tarvin Tattenhall, Malpas and Farndon.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of school children between their 13th and 14th birthdays continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

No. of Consent forms issued	746
No. of Children for whom Consent forms were returned	620
No. of Children tested by Patch Test	245
No. of Children positive to Patch Test	53
No. of Children tested by Mantoux Test	528
No. of Children positive to Mantoux Test	137
No. of Children Vaccinated with B.C.G.	375
No. of Children given 8 weeks follow-up Mantoux Test	247
No. of Children positive to 8 weeks follow-up Mantoux Test	210
No. of Children given 12 months follow-up Mantoux Test	103
No. of Children positive to 12 months follow-up Mantoux Test	86

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.56—31.12.56 amounted to £329/0/0.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. VACCINATION

1. Primary Vaccination—	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
(a) Pre-School Children	363	288	651
(h) School Children	10	6	16
(c) Adults	7	15	22
Total	380	309	689
<hr/>			
(2). Re-Vaccination—			
(a) Pre-School Children	15	15	30
(b) School Children	10	11	21
(c) Adults	31	20	51
Total	56	46	102
<hr/>			

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Incomplete

(a) Pre-School Children	48	48	96
(b) School Children	1	—	1
Total	49	48	97

Completed

(a) Pre-School Children	372	358	730
(b) School Children	22	27	49
Total	394	385	779

Re-Immunised

All Children	86	78	164
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C. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

(a) Pre-School Children	416	382	798
(b) School Children	11	21	32
Total	427	403	830

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1956.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Depot was completed in February, and was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Leverhulme, T.D., on the 19th October.

The Ambulance Service operated from the new Depot on Monday, 13th February. Full time manning of the Service commenced on Sunday, 11th March. Thus for the first time the Depot was manned for the full 24 hours, 7 days each week; and the establishment of driver attendants had been increased accordingly to maintain this service.

It was agreed by Representatives of the Committee and the County Fire Brigade Committee that the grounds surrounding the new Ambulance Depot and Fire Station at Ellesmere Port should be jointly laid out and maintained. The tender of A. T. Brickwood Ltd., of Loughborough, was accepted for the lay-out of the grounds at a cost of £370/11/0.

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service was again higher than the previous year. In 1955 the total mileage was 125,826, as against 141,632 for 1956. Similarly the number of patients transported was also higher than the previous year. In 1955, 13,505 patients were transported, in 1956 this number had increased to 14,908.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

	No. of Vehicles 1	Total No. of Journeys 2	Total No. Patients carried 3	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4	Total Mileage 5
A. Directly Provided—					
Ambulances	3	2,188	5,982	653	49,407
Cars	4	2,582	8,926	282	92,225
B. By Agency—					
Ambulances	5	2,409	2,409	290	15,448
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)					
C. Supplementary—					
Ambulances	—	1	1	1	24
W.V.S., Taxi, etc.					
(Cars) —	—	148	175	—	7,624

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1956, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was as follows:—

	1954/55	1955/56
Ambulances	1/8d.	2/1½d.
Sitting Case Cars	1/3¼d.	1/5¾d.

The average cost throughout the County was:—

	1954/55	1955/56
Ambulances	2/7¼d.	2/9½d.
Sitting Case Cars	1/6¼d.	1/8¼d.

Staff

The Committee approved the appointment of 5 additional Driver Attendants, 1 Driver Mechanic and 1 cleaner, in accordance with the revised establishment.

The personnel Establishment is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor.
- 1 Senior Driver.
- 13 Driver Attendants.
- 1 Driver Mechanic.
- 1 Female Cleaner part-time.

There were no resignations during the year.

Telephones were installed in the homes of 3 additional Driver/Attendants, making the total 4, for the purpose of "On Call" duties. In addition to the full time manning of the Ambulance Service 2 Driver/Attendants are "On Call" from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday to Friday, and 6 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Monday.

Five members of the Ambulance Staff were awarded Diplomas by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and another member was awarded a bar to his five-year medal.

Transport

A new Dual Purpose Vehicle (Stretcher and Sitting Case) was received in October, replacing one of the Austin Sitting Case Cars. The Austin Sitting Case Car was sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for the sum of £229/12/6.

The Humber Ambulance MLG.928 was involved in an accident and was extensively damaged. The vehicle has been repaired and is now on the road.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE TUBERCULOSIS

A. No. of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

(a) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 4 completed	28
(Primary Investigation).	
(b) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 22 completed	266
(Follow-up visits).	
(c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—	
(a) Removed from area	20
(b) Been cured	8
(c) Recovered	6
(d) Died	5

(2) Other than Tuberculosis—

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) 1

C. Nursing Equipment:—

(a) Particulars of new items of nursing equipment purchased:—

- 1 Second-hand Invalid wheel chair, £3/10/0.
- 1 Latex Rubber Mattress, £8/13/5.

(b) In one case the rental for a wheel chair was cancelled, in another case the rental and deposit for a rubber mattress was cancelled.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1956

DISTRICT	DISEASE																															
	Paratyphoid Fever				Scarlet Fever				Whooping Cough				Malaria		Measles		Pneumonia		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Erysipelas		Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Acute Encephalitis		Puerperal Pyrexia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ellesmere Port																																
Municipal Boro	2	—	25	25	76	80	—	—	131	167	6	6	9	8	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	2*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chester R.D.C.	—	1	9	12	26	29	8†	—	10	11	3	10	3	10	1	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tarvin R.D.C.	—	—	9	6	23	26	—	—	19	11	13	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	1	43	43	125	135	8†	—	160	189	22	31	12	19	1	3	5	4	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

* Includes 1 case diagnosed in Clatterbridge Hospital.

† Military Cases.

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.56	245	89	334	237	73	310
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year	17	2	19	21	8	29
3. Number of cases removed from Register during year	18	1	19	18	2	20
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.56	244	90	334	240	79	319
				484*	169*	653*

* This figure is made up as follows:—

	Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1. Ellesmere Port M.B.	247	81	328
2. Chester R.D.C.	148	36	184
3. Tarvin R.D.C.	89	52	141
	484	169	653

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been a substantial increase in the demand for the Domestic Help Service throughout the year. At the commencement of the year there were only 35 cases where there was a continued need for domestic help; at the end of the year this number had increased to 52. Apart from 7 cases, the help has been given to aged persons who are infirm and in need of assistance. The number of hours that domestic help is given to each patient varies from 3 hours to 24 hours per week, and the duration of the Service varies in accordance with the need of each particular case. In some cases the need is a permanent one, in other cases awaiting admission to hospital or a County Welfare Home, or in many cases for the remainder of the patient's life.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year:—

- 1 case has had Domestic Help for 6 years.
- 5 cases have had Domestic Help for 5 years.
- 5 cases have had Domestic Help for 4 years.
- 1 case has had Domestic Help for 3½ years.
- 1 case has had Domestic Help for 3 years.
- 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 2 years.
- 6 cases have had Domestic Help for 1½ years.
- 7 cases have had Domestic Help for 1 year.
- 24 cases have had Domestic Help for less than 1 year.

Every effort was made in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

- | | |
|--|----|
| A. Number of new applicants | 94 |
| (of these 41 were cancelled). | |
| B. Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31.12.56 | 40 |
| C. Number of cases attended during the year | 91 |
| D. Number of cases of continued need at 31.12.56 | 52 |
| 38 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. | |
| 11 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases. | |
| 8 Future Recovery cases were cancelled. | |
| In 3 Future Recovery cases collection was approved. | |
| In 9 cases the debt was cancelled. | |
| In 3 cases the debt was referred to the County Clerk for necessary action. | |
| In 3 cases the assessment was reduced. | |
| In 1 case the reduction in the assessment was not granted. | |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (PART III)

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1955, and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

ESTIMATES 1957/58

Estimates for the year 1957/58 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	2,165
Day Nursery	2,135
Midwifery	185
Health Visiting	30
Home Nursing	1,405
Vaccination and Immunisation	745
Ambulance Service	6,630
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	275
B.C.G.	50
Domestic Helps	3,850
Administration	5,445
Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases	250
	<hr/> £23,165 <hr/>

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